

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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February 25, 2003

FROM: G. DANIEL OJEDA, Director
Architecture & Engineering Department

TRESSA KENTNER, Court Executive Officer
Superior Court

CAROL L. ANSELM, Assistant County Administrator
Human Services System

**SUBJECT: JUVENILE DEPENDENCY COURT AND DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S
SERVICES BUILDING – RE-ADVERTISE FOR BIDS**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve revised plans and specifications for a Juvenile Dependency Court and Department of Children's Services (DCS) Building in San Bernardino; and
2. Authorize the Director of the Architecture and Engineering (A&E) Department to re-advertise for competitive bids to construct a Juvenile Dependency Court and DCS Building in San Bernardino.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Juvenile Dependency Court is currently housed in modular-type trailers, located at 900 East Gilbert Street. The Juvenile Dependency Court faces several critical issues that require the construction of an expanded facility.

- 1) The facilities for the Juvenile Dependency Court and DCS do not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards;
- 2) Both the Court and DCS have outgrown their current facilities;
- 3) All heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are in very poor condition;
- 4) The current facility lacks adequate parking for judges, attorneys, staff, and the public; and
- 5) Buildings lack proper security for court operation.

The original project scope was to construct an 8,000 square foot temporary facility utilizing either a pre-engineered or modular-type building with slab-on-grade construction, which would contain three courtrooms and accompanying area for court support functions. A budget of \$1,365,000 was allocated for this project.

Review and analysis by County staff concluded that many functions of DCS directly relate with those of the Juvenile Dependency Court. It was determined that a larger, combined facility would afford the most efficient, comprehensive, and convenient services to the public. Construction of a 28,000 square foot building with parking and other site improvements was proposed to provide the required space necessary for DCS, courtrooms and court support services.

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On June 5, 2001, the Board approved additional appropriations of \$3,800,000 for construction costs and other expenditures related to this project for a total project cost of \$5,165,000. The facility will be constructed on approximately three acres of land, situated within the northwest quadrant of the former County Medical Center site.

On September 10, 2002, the Board approved plans and specifications and authorized A&E to advertise for competitive bids for the construction of the Juvenile Dependency Court and DCS building. A pre-bid meeting was conducted on September 25, 2002, which was attended by eight bidders. On November 7, 2002, two bids were received. The firms submitting bids were Woodcliff Corporation, with a base bid of \$5,900,000, and J. Murray Construction, with a base bid of \$6,417,000. The low bid was well in excess of the project's available construction budget.

A&E consulted with HMC Group to assist in re-evaluating the designs in order to conform with the available budgetary amount. HMC group was originally approved as the design contractor by the Board on June 5, 2001 for this project. HMC proceeded to evaluate a number of design items within the project for possible cost savings. HMC value engineered several architectural and engineering design features to bring construction costs within available budget while maintaining the full original intent and functionality of the project. Revisions to the plans and specifications are now complete and have been reviewed and approved by staff from A&E, Superior Court and Human Services System and the project is ready for re-advertisement for bids.

This project is consistent with a County Administrative Office approved Capital Improvement Program request. Plans and specifications are on file in the A&E office.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been coordinated with Eli Montoya, Department Contract Compliance Designee, on February 11, 2003; approved as to legal form by County Counsel (Jean-Rene Basle, Deputy County Counsel) on February 12, 2003; reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Lynn Chacon and Marcia Faulkner, Administrative Analysts) on February 12, 2003; Human Services System (Kris Letterman, Administrative Manager) on February 14, 2003; and the Department of Children's Services (Cathy Cimbalo, Director) on February 18, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This project was originally funded in the FY 2000-01 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the amount of \$1,365,000. On June 5, 2001, the Board approved additional appropriations of \$3,800,000 for a total of \$5,165,000. Expenditures to date totaled \$396,381 resulting in a carryover of \$4,768,619 (construction - \$4,186,000; contingency - \$418,600; project management/inspection - \$164,019) into FY 2002-03. The project costs will be reimbursed by Justice Facility Reserve Funds (\$1,365,000) and HSS Realignment Funds (\$3,800,000).

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with A&E's proposal and recommends this action. Delays in this project will result in future escalating costs and complaints from the public regarding ADA accessibility.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: Fifth.

PRESENTER: G. Daniel Ojeda, Director, A&E, 387-5025
Tressa Kentner, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court, 387-6401
Carol L. Anselmi, Asst. County Administrator, HSS, 387-4764

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